



## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

### 24-HOUR REPORT

15 MAY 2020

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#### (U) CALIFORNIA

##### (U) Lake Elsinore – Sheriff's Raid Nets More than 1,000 Marijuana Plants

(U) A raid on a Lake Elsinore home uncovered an indoor marijuana grow containing more than 1,000 cannabis plants under sun lamps, according to the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. A spokesman said that a search warrant was served on 13 May, in an area known as Rosetta Canyon, where anti-narcotics teams have been conducting sweeps over the last month, targeting indoor grows. Community complaints had prompted an investigation of the location, culminating in the warrant being obtained and served. After deputies entered the home, they discovered "over 1,300 marijuana plants in various stages of growth, and that the electrical system had been illegally altered, causing a severe fire hazard." No suspects were immediately identified.

SOURCE: 14 May 2020, [NBC Los Angeles](#)

#### (U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

##### (U) Imperial Beach – Eight Arrested after Panga Boat Arrives Ashore

(U) Eight Mexican nationals were arrested on suspicion of crossing the US-Mexico border without authorization on 14 May after a suspected smuggling boat came ashore in Imperial Beach. Federal agents first spotted the boat, with eight people on board, shortly after midnight about a mile offshore. Agents responded to an area near the Imperial Beach pier and found a beached 19-foot pleasure craft with several life vests scattered nearby. With the help of helicopters, agents quickly located six people on the beach. About two hours later, two additional people were found hiding in a residential area south of Palm Avenue, said a Border Patrol spokesman. Since October, the San Diego sector agents have responded to 142 maritime events, making 540 arrests and seizing 57 vessels and 6,642 pounds of contraband.

SOURCE: 14 May 2020, [San Diego Tribune](#)

#### (U) NATIONAL

##### (U) District of Columbia – US Considers Returning Cuba to Terrorism Blacklist

(U) Washington – The US State Department on 13 May flagged Cuba as a country that does not cooperate with US efforts to counter terrorism, citing Cuba's continued ties to Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and Colombia's ELN rebel group. Any decision to put Cuba back on the list would take into account Havana's support for Maduro, whose 2018 re-election was considered a sham by most Western countries. The US government indicted him and much of his inner circle in March on charges of "narco-terrorism" conspiracy, corruption and drug trafficking. The US and dozens of other nations recognized opposition leader Juan Guaido as interim president last year. However, Maduro remains in power, backed by Venezuela's military as well as Russia, China, Cuba, and Iran. The official re-listing of Cuba to the list of state sponsors of terrorism, could be decided by the end of the year.

SOURCE: 14 May 2020, [Reuters](#)

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**(U) New Jersey – Township Victim of 'Ransomware Attack'**

(U) Bernards Township – Officials confirmed on 13 May that Bernards Township's computer network was hacked by an outside party on 11 May. Certain systems, including the township website which was knocked out on 11 May, were still "disrupted" as of 14 May. The matter is under investigation. "As we continue to investigate, we can confirm the township was the victim of a ransomware attack, and we are communicating with both state and federal law enforcement," an official reported. The official said that a preliminary review "appears to show that our Edmunds Software, which provides the township financial/payroll capabilities, recreation software that allows for scheduling and payment, Office365, township phone system, and our police department do not appear to be affected." Township operations are still "up and running and can be reached by phone or email for day to day inquiries," he added.

SOURCE: 14 May 2020, [The Bernardsville Times](#)

**(U) Washington – US CBP Seattle Field Office Seizes Nearly 134-pounds of Cocaine**

(U) Blaine – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), in coordination with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), arrested a man and seized nearly 134-pounds of cocaine, with an estimated value of \$3 million, at the Pacific Highway Port of Entry on 9 May. The seizure occurred during an outbound inspection when CBP officers referred a tractor-trailer for additional examination. While searching the trailer, CBP officers found five small duffel bags on the floor, which contained 50 plastic wrapped packages that tested positive for cocaine.

SOURCE: 14 May 2020, [CBP](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Colombia – Bomb Kills National Liberation Army Rebel Commander, Three Others**

(U) Bogota – A commander from Colombia's National Liberation Army (ELN) rebels known for his management of illicit finances has been killed along with three others in a military bombing, the Colombian Defense Ministry said on 14 May. The bombing in a rural area of Bolivar province was a joint operation between the air force, army troops, and the police, an official with the defense ministry said. "Alias 'Mocho Tierra' was considered a high-value target and was involved in the planning and execution of terrorist acts against the civilian population and the armed forces," the official added. The leader, whose identity was not disclosed, was an ELN member for nearly three decades and participated in a 1999 kidnapping of airline passengers. He was in charge of drug trafficking and illegal mining in the region that generated monthly revenues of about one million US dollars.

SOURCE: 14 May 2020, [Reuters](#)

**(U) Spain – Suspect Allegedly Plotted to Conduct Terror Attack during Soccer Match**

(U) Barcelona – A suspect who was detained on 8 May in Barcelona and who has been sent to provisional prison for terrorism and self-indoctrination, declared that his objective was to attack a Barcelona-Real Madrid soccer match with a drone. However, the suspect did not say when he intended to carry out the attack and no drones have been found attributed to him. The Spanish Civil Guard believes that the suspect was radicalized during the recent quarantine due to the COVID-19 and that he was leaving confinement to find places to attack. The suspect is a known sympathizer of ISIS, but his radicalization reportedly remained under discretion until recently, only culminating during Spain's quarantine orders. The police believe that the suspect's extreme radicalization and recent activity could be a response to the different calls made by ISIS for solitary actors based in the West to mobilize and attack in their places of residence.

SOURCE: 14 May 2020, [The Times Hub](#)

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**UNCLASSIFIED****(U) United Kingdom – UK Energy System Falls Victim to Cyber-Attack**

(U) London – UK's energy system has fallen victim to a cyber-attack targeting the IT infrastructure used to run the electrical grid, local media reported on 14 May. The electricity system's administrator, Elexon, confirmed that it was affected by a cyber-attack but that the key systems used to govern the electricity market were not affected. National Grid is investigating whether the attack could affect the part of its business tasked with keeping the lights on. A spokesman for the energy system operator said electricity supplies had not been affected, and there were "robust cybersecurity measures in place" to make sure the UK continues to receive reliable electricity. Elexon is a vital part of the UK electricity market because it carefully monitors the electricity generated by energy companies to match with what National Grid expects to receive, and to make sure that generators are paid the correct amount for the energy they generate.

SOURCE: 14 May 2020, [Guardian](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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